

## FASTRADA AND LEWIS

Fastrada: Lewis! Lewis! Guess what Mommy has for you . . . surprise! (she gives Lewis a breastplate)

Lewis: Oh! Thank you, Mother. Isn't it a beauty? Can you imagine how I'll shine in the sun?

Fastrada: Darling, you look beautiful. Doesn't he, Charles? Oh, Pippin stand up straight. Didn't they teach you posture at Padua? Notice how straight Lewis stands . . .

Lewis: And look how I shine. (Crosses with swordplay) Hah, Visigoths!!

Fastrada: We're so proud of Lewis, aren't we, dear? Oh, my darling, before I forget, the royal treasurer informs me I've overdrawn my allowance account.

Charles: You're overdrawn again?

Fastrada: Now, now, my Lord, don't be angry with me. You know how confused I get about money. After all, I'm just an ordinary housewife and mother (winks at audience).

## BERTHE AND PIPPIN

Berthe: Pippin? Pippin!! Oh, Pippin, I can't believe it. (She holds out her arms and Pippin embraces her) Oh, how good it is to hold you like I used to when you were a little boy. Remember Pippin?

Pippin: Well of course I remember. That's why I came here.

Berthe: Oh Pippin, you look terrible. You need some fresh air . . .some good food . . some frolicking.

Pippin: Oh Grandma, you haven't changed a bit.

Berthe: But you have, Pippin. Now something is the matter . . . What have you been doing with yourself?

Pippin: I went to war, Grandma.

Berthe: No wonder you look so terrible. Men and their wars. (Looks at him closely) But Pippin, what's wrong?

Pippin: Well, Grandma . . . My life is going by. I have to start doing something meaningful, but I don't know what it is. So I feel empty and vacant . . .

Berthe: Empty . . . and vacant? Now Pippin, listen to me. You're going to hear something very . . ."wise". Don't take life so seriously. Just take things as they come along. Don't do too much planning, and don't do too much thinking. How's that for wisdom so far?

Pippin: Well, frankly, Grandma, I expected a little more from you than that.

Berthe: It'll sound better with music. (To the conductor) Hit it! . .

## CHARLES AND PIPPIN #1

Pippin: I'm here to be with you for one moment . . .to touch you. . . to look in your eyes.

Charles: And what do you see?

Pippin: Two eyes . . . a little cloudy with age . . . a sunset.

Charles: What else?

Pippin: The death of thousands . . . terror and bloodshed.

Charles: You see that in my eyes?

Pippin: Do you deny it?

Charles: Deny it? I'm proud of it. I brought order out of chaos. If terror, blood and death were necessary to create that order . . . so be it.

Pippin: Those are words from the past. Time has passed you by.

Charles: And your time has come. . . my son?

Pippin: Yes, Father.

Charles: It's easy from where you stand to judge the things that I have done. But when I marched the dust of the road was in my nose and when I fought the blood of the enemy was in my eyes. I sank in the mud on the shores of the Volga. I drowned two legions in the Vistula. Eagles, ospreys, even vultures had a better view. From the heights all things are very clear. Birds float on the wind. But, by the power of God, I blew my breath across a continent and shaped an empire with it. . . . So you think you could do better than I.

Pippin: Yes, I do. I have to.

Charles: Well, if you really believe that, there's only one thing you can do. (Charles takes out the knife and offers it to Pippin.)

Pippin: Thank you, I brought my own. (Pippin takes out a knife from his sleeve)

Charles: Then use it. Or go, and leave me to my prayers.

Pippin: What do you pray for, Father?

Charles: Strength. And may God give you the same.

## PIPPIN AND CHARLES #2

Pippin: Wait? Father . . .

Charles: Yes?

Pippin: I know what I want to do now.

Charles: Good. Good.

Pippin: I want to be a soldier.

Charles: What!

Pippin: Yes, I want to join you in your campaign against the Visigoths.

Charles: Denied.

Pippin: But that's not fair! You're taking Lewis.

Charles: Yes, well, your brother Lewis is an ideal soldier. He is strong and stupid. You, on the other hand, are educated.

Pippin: But, I'm your oldest son. That means I'll be king one day. Fighting wars is an important part of being king, isn't it?

Charles: Fighting wars is the most important part of being king. I mean after all, the Pope and I have dedicated ourselves to bringing Christianity to the entire world, even if I have to kill every non-believer to do it.

Pippin: Well, that's what I'm talking about. You're dedicated to something, and I just want to be dedicated to something, too. . . with all my heart and soul . . . and whatever it is, I want to do it as well as I possibly can. Otherwise, my life won't have any meaning at all.

Charles: Oh, you want your life to have meaning, do you?

Pippin: Yes, I do.

Charles: Well, that's very ambitious of you, Pippin. (a beat) Denied!

Pippin: (looks at his father a moment, then starts off) Goodbye, Father.

Charles: Where are you going?

Pippin: I'll find myself another war . . .

FASTRADA

Fastrada: Terrible. A son speaking against his very own father that way. I'd rather be drawn and quartered than think I was in any way responsible for what happened next!! Word had come to me that Pippin was holding secret meetings . . of a treasonous nature.

Lewis: Mama . . . if Pippin kills Father . . .

Fastrada: You'll be next in line for the throne, darling.

Lewis: But if Father discovers Pippin's plot and executes him . .

Fastrada: You'll be next in line for the throne, darling.

Lewis: (It slowly dawns on him) Mama, no matter what happens . . I'll move up!

Fastrada: Yes, darling. But in the hustle and bustle of my lord's departure I completely forgot to warn him . . . (she and Lewis snap their fingers) Oh, my what a busy day . . Events move so swiftly it's hard for a simple woman like me to keep up. But something tells me that one day . . . soon. . . I will be able to say what every mother wants to say . . . "My son, the King".

## CATHERINE AND PIPPIN #1

Catherine: When I first saw Pippin he was lying in the road like a discarded rag. The man had obviously lost the will to live. So the first thing I had to do was to get him interested in something . . . something that would restore his faith in life . . . something like . . . me. (going to Pippin) Well, I'm sure there are many things you'd like to know about me, aren't there?

Pippin: No.

Catherine: Good. My name is Catherine. I'm a widow. I have a son. I own this estate.

Pippin, you have been lying in this bed for seven days now. What is the matter with you?

Pippin: It's nothing you could possibly understand.

Catherine: Well, try me. Give me a chance.

Pippin: All right. I have been searching and searching for something fulfilling and meaningful to do with my life, and I have tried everything I can think of, and I haven't even come close. So I am in utter, abject, complete despair.

Catherine: (after a beat) And that's it?

Pippin: Yes. That's it.

Catherine: Pippin, let me tell you something about despair. I loved my husband very much. The years we spent together were the happiest years of my life. And then one day he was struck by fever . . . and when his hand went cold in mine, I felt my life, too, was over, I was overcome by the deepest despair. I took to my bed for five days. On the sixth day I got up. There were things to be done. An estate to be run. A boy to raise. . . . Well, look at that. I think he's really moved. Pippin this is such a large estate. I'm all alone here and I can't do all this work by myself. Couldn't you please help me . . .

## CATHERINE AND PIPPIN #2

Catherine: Close your eyes.

Pippin: Why?

Catherine: Because we've got a surprise for you. Now no peeking.

Pippin: I usually don't like surprises.

Catherine: Well, you'll like this one.

Pippin: Can I open my eyes, please?

Catherine: Yes, now you can. Quince pudding flambé! Oh, I haven't made it for years but I thought that for this special occasion...

Pippin: What special occasion?

Catherine: Well...one year ago today.....you arrived here. So Theo and I thought that we would celebrate with a little party. So I made this... and Theo made you a new flute...

Pippin: Oh, Theo... it's beautiful. Thank you. I don't know what to say.

Catherine: In the year that you've been with us, a lot of water has flowed over the dam. You've come to mean a great deal to me ... to us ... to our very ordinary lives. So I just want to say for me ... and for Theo... we're glad you're here. And now ... well, now we have so many good years ahead of us...

Pippin: I've got to get out of here.

Catherine: Pippin, what's the matter?

Pippin: I just can't stay here. This isn't enough! Life is more than ducks that die ... and leaking roofs ...and flaming quince pudding!

Catherine: Are you sure?

Pippin: Yes I'm sure. Don't you see, there has to be something more than this. There has to be.

## LEADING PLAYER

Leading Player: Ladies and Gentlemen, it seems our extraordinary young man has elected to compromise his aspirations. But I know there are many of you out there...extraordinary people...exceptional people...who would gladly trade our ordinary lives for a short but spectacular career! We'll be there for you... waiting... anytime you want us. Why, we're right inside your heads! And we promise you sets, costumes, lights, magic!

Leading Player:

[Dramatic reading of 'Magic To Do' lyrics. Do not sing.]

JOIN US, LEAVE YOUR FIELD TO FLOWER

JOIN US, LEAVE YOUR CHEESE TO SOUR

JOIN US, COME AND WASTE AN HOUR OR TWO

DOO-DLE-EE-DOO

JOURNEY, JOURNEY TO A SPOT EXCITING

MYSTIC AND EXOTIC

JOURNEY THROUGH OUR ANECDOTIC REVUE

WE'VE GOT MAGIC TO DO, JUST FOR YOU

WE'VE GOT MIRACLE PLAYS TO PLAY

WE'VE GOT PARTS TO PERFORM, HEARTS TO WARM

KINGS AND THINGS TO TAKE BY STORM

AS WE GO ALONG OUR WAY